

HOUSE BILL 1528

By Haynes

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4,
Chapter 1, relative to the three stars of Tennessee
award.

WHEREAS, it is the intention of the General Assembly to recognize the heroic and brave sacrifices of peace officers, firefighters, and emergency medical first responders killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new part:

4-1-501.

This part shall be known and may be cited as the "Three Stars of Tennessee Award."

4-1-502.

(a) The peace officers' three stars of Tennessee award shall be awarded to:

(1) Each peace officer who is seriously injured in the line of duty;

(2) The surviving next of kin of each peace officer who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty;

(3) Each federal law enforcement officer or special agent who is seriously injured in the line of duty assisting a state or local law enforcement agency; or

(4) The surviving next of kin of each federal law enforcement officer or special agent who is killed or sustains a fatal injury while performing duties in this state to assist a state or local law enforcement agency.

(b) There is created an advisory committee on the peace officers' three stars of Tennessee award to advise the governor on the issuance, design, recipient selection and presentation of the award. The committee shall be composed of three (3) current or retired peace officers appointed by the governor, or the governor's designee. Committee members must have served as peace officers in this state for a minimum of ten (10) years.

(c) No later than thirty (30) days after the governor appoints the initial members of the committee and annually thereafter, the committee shall meet and elect from its membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers as it considers necessary.

(d) The committee shall meet annually, but no later than three (3) weeks before September 11, or at any other time if called by the chair or a majority of the committee. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(e) Committee members shall not receive compensation for serving on the committee but shall be reimbursed for attendance at meetings in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(f)

(1) The governor or the governor's designee shall present a peace officers' three stars of Tennessee award to each recipient or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony held on, or as near as practicable to, September 11 of each year.

(2) The award shall consist of a medal, a certificate, and a ribbon suitable for wearing on a uniform.

(g) Any person who has personal knowledge of a peace officer killed or seriously injured in the line of duty, or a federal law enforcement officer or special agent killed or seriously injured in this state assisting a state or local law enforcement agency, may submit that information in writing to the committee.

(h) As used in this section, "peace officer" means an officer, employee or agent of government who has a duty imposed by law to maintain public order, make arrests for offenses, whether that duty extends to all offenses or is limited to specific offenses including laws and regulations pertaining to forests in this state; and investigate the commission or suspected commission of offenses.

4-1-503.

(a) The firefighters' three stars of Tennessee award shall be awarded to:

(1) A firefighter seriously injured in the line of duty; or

(2) The surviving next of kin of a firefighter who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

(b) There is created an advisory committee on the firefighters' three stars of Tennessee award to advise the governor on the issuance, design, recipient selection and presentation of the award. The committee shall be composed of three (3) current or retired firefighters appointed by the governor, or the governor's designee. Committee members must have served as firefighters in this state for a minimum of ten (10) years.

(c) No later than thirty (30) days after the governor appoints the initial members of the committee and annually thereafter, the committee shall meet and elect from its membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers as it considers necessary.

(d) The committee shall meet annually, but no later than three (3) weeks before September 11, or at any other time if called by the chair or a majority of the committee. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(e) Committee members shall not receive compensation for serving on the committee but shall be reimbursed for attendance at meetings in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(f)

(1) The governor or the governor's designee shall present the firefighters' three stars of Tennessee award to each recipient or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony held on, or as near as practicable to, September 11 of each year.

(2) The award shall consist of a medal, a certificate, and a ribbon suitable for wearing on a uniform.

(g) Any person who has personal knowledge of a firefighter killed or seriously injured in the line of duty may submit that information in writing to the committee.

(h) As used in this section, "firefighter" means any full-time, part-time, or volunteer firefighter hired or accepted as firefighter by a fire department recognized under Title 68, Chapter 102, Part 3 and meets the minimum training requirements of § 4-24-112.

4-1-504.

(a) The medical first responders' three stars of Tennessee award shall be awarded to:

(1) A medical first responder seriously injured in the line of duty; or

(2) The surviving next of kin of a medical first responder who is killed or sustains a fatal injury in the line of duty.

(b) There is created an advisory committee on the medical first responders' three stars of Tennessee award to advise the governor on the issuance, design, recipient selection and presentation of the award. The committee shall be composed of three (3) current or retired emergency medical first responder appointed by the governor, or the governor's designee. Committee members must have served as a medical first responder in this state for a minimum of ten (10) years.

(c) No later than thirty (30) days after the governor appoints the initial members of the committee and annually thereafter, the committee shall meet and elect from its membership a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers as it considers necessary.

(d) The committee shall meet annually, but no later than three (3) weeks before September 11, or at any other time if called by the chair or a majority of the committee. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum.

(e) Committee members shall not receive compensation for serving on the committee but shall be reimbursed for attendance at meetings in accordance with the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the commissioner of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general and reporter.

(f)

(1) The governor or the governor's designee shall present a medical first responders' three stars of Tennessee award to each emergency or surviving next of kin during a public ceremony held on, or as near as practicable to, September 11 of each year.

(2) The award shall consist of a medal, a certificate, and a ribbon suitable for wearing on a uniform.

(g) Any person who has personal knowledge of a medical first responder killed or seriously injured in the line of duty may submit that information in writing to the committee.

(h) As used in this section, "medical first responder" means emergency services personnel or other person who responds to calls for emergency medical assistance from a 911 call.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect, upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.